INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/NL 03/00818

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C12P3/00 C02F3/34

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C12P C02F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, MEDLINE, WPI Data, PAJ, EMBASE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	BALK MELIKE ET AL: "Thermotoga lettingae sp. nov., a novel thermophilic, methanol-degrading bacterium isolated from a thermophilic anaerobic reactor." INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SYSTEMATIC AND EVOLUTIONARY MICROBIOLOGY. ENGLAND JUL 2002, vol. 52, no. Pt 4, July 2002 (2002-07), pages 1361-1368, XP008015281 ISSN: 1466-5026 cited in the application the whole document	13

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. [X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
3 March 2004	15/03/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040. Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax (+31-70) 340-3016	Schmitz, T

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/NL 03/00818

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	BOETIUS ANTJE ET AL: "A marine microbial consortium apparently mediating anaerobic oxidation of methane." NATURE (LONDON), vol. 407, no. 6804, 2000, pages 623-626, XP002236081 ISSN: 0028-0836 abstract; figures 1,2 page 625, left-hand column, line 25 - line 28 page 625, right-hand column, line 8 - line 11 page 625, left-hand column, line 45 - line 62 ---	1,6-8,13
A	HOEHLER TORI M ET AL: "Field and laboratory studies of methane oxidation in an anoxic marine sediment: Evidence for a methanogen-sulfate reducer consortium." GLOBAL BIOGEOCHEMICAL CYCLES, vol. 8, no. 4, 1994, pages 451-463, XP008015376 ISSN: 0886-6236 Equations 1-3 abstract page 458, right-hand column, paragraph 2 -page 459, left-hand column, paragraph 1 figures 4,6 page 461, left-hand column, line 32 - line 38 page 461, right-hand column, paragraph 4 - paragraph 5 ---	1,6-8,13
A	WO 02 06503 A (US ENERGY) 24 January 2002 (2002-01-24) examples 1-18 ---	
A	NAUHAUS KATJA ET AL: "In vitro demonstration of anaerobic oxidation of methane coupled to sulphate reduction in sediment from a marine gas hydrate area." ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY. ENGLAND MAY 2002, vol. 4, no. 5, May 2002 (2002-05), pages 296-305, XP002236082 ISSN: 1462-2912 abstract page 297, right-hand column, paragraph 3 -page 299, right-hand column, paragraph 1; figures 1,3-5 ---	6-8,13

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	VALENTINE D L ET AL: "New perspectives on anaerobic methane oxidation." ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY. ENGLAND OCT 2000, vol. 2, no. 5, October 2000 (2000-10), pages 477-484, XP002236083 ISSN: 1462-2912 equations 1-9 the whole document	
A	VALENTINE D L ET AL: "Hydrogen production by methanogens under low-hydrogen conditions." ARCHIVES OF MICROBIOLOGY. GERMANY DEC 2000, vol. 174, no. 6, December 2000 (2000-12), pages 415-421, XP002236084 ISSN: 0302-8933 the whole document	
A	HINRICHS KAI-UWE ET AL: "Methane-consuming archaebacteria in marine sediments." NATURE (LONDON), vol. 398, no. 6730, 29 April 1999 (1999-04-29), pages 802-805, XP002236085 ISSN: 0028-0836 abstract	1,6-8,12

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WO 0206503 A	24-01-2002	CA 2416377 A1	24-01-2002
		EP 1301617 A2	16-04-2003
		WO 0206503 A2	24-01-2002

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